

THE HISTORY OF *EUCHROMIUS OCELLEA* (HAWORTH) (LEP: PYRALIDAE) IN BRITAIN

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It was the capture of a specimen of *Euchromius ocellea* in November 1981 that prompted me to research the past history in Britain of this rare immigrant Pyrale. Since the first published record in 1812, several authors, namely South (1890), Donovan (1932), Beirne (1952) and Huggins (1958), have attempted to publish up-to-date accounts of this species' history; without exception each of these accounts contains at least one or more important errors and it was because of this that I decided to compile a, hopefully, accurate list of all the twenty five British records. In each case, the original published record was checked, and where conflicting dates or localities appeared in print, then reference was made either to the data attached to the specimen or to the captor's field diaries.

Although the life history of *ocellea* remains unknown, there is little evidence to support the views expressed by earlier authors that the larva might be associated with stored food products and that its occurrence in this country is due to accidental importation. On the contrary, a number of the *ocellea* to visit this country have arrived in the company of recognised immigrant species, proving its status beyond doubt. On two occasions, in 1967 and 1981, it appeared on the same night as *Tathorhynchus exsiccata* (Lederer), a Noctuid species suspected of originating from either South-East Europe or North Africa, and of which only nine specimens have been recorded from the British Isles.

The Records

One in garden, early Spring *circa* 1812, London Suburbs, captor not named, (A. H. Haworth, *Lepidoptera Britannica* (1812) p.486).

One while sallowing, mid March 1861, Glamorgan, captor not named, (H. T. Stainton, *Ent. Ann.* 1862: 110).

One at light, first week of September 1865, near Dumfries, Mr Lennon, (G. J. Hearder, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 3: 139).

One, 20th January 1867, St. Helens, Isle of Wight, J. Rogers, (A. E. Wright, *Entomologist*, 65:80).

One while beating, February¹ 1869, Eastham Wood, near Liverpool, Cheshire, T. J. Roxborough,² (C.S. Gregson, *Entomologist*, 4. 249).

Two, February 1869, Cheshire Coast, captor not named, (C. S. Gregson, *Entomologist*, 4: 263).

One male at rest on grass stem, 4th August 1879, Folkestone

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¹Repeatedly given as March.

²One assumes that the erroneous reference to the county of Roxborough in Beirne (1952) derived from the name of the captor of the first Cheshire specimen.

Warren, Kent, S. Webb, (Webb, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 16: 101).

One, 21st February 1899, New Forest, Hants, H. Ashby, (Ashby, *Entomologist*, 32:258).

One at window light, 5th October 1921, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs, A. E. Wright, (Wright, *Entomologist*, 55: 38).

One, 22nd May 1923, Charmouth, Dorset, W. D. Lang, (N. D. Riley, *Entomologist*, 57: 90).

One disturbed during day, 11th September 1928, New Forest, Hants, E. S. Craske, (J. W. Metcalfe, *Entomologists*, 62: 78).

One on the wing at night, 23rd January 1932, Timoleague, Co. Cork, G. E. Lucas, (C. Donovan, *Entomologist*, 65:67).

One at light, 17th February 1950, Hawley, Hants, A. W. Richards, (Richards, *Entomologist*, 83: 278).

One at m.v.l., 10th March³ 1957, Maidencombe, Devon, F. H. Lees, (S. T. Stidston, *Trans. Devon Assc.* 90:202).

One at m.v.l., 30th May 1958, Martyr Worthy, Hants, D. W. ffennell, (ffennell, *Entomologist*, 91: 262).

One male at m.v.l., 7th September 1958, Dungeness, Kent, D. More, (H. C. Huggins, *Entomologist*, 92: 26).

One at m.v.l., 13th September 1958, Maidencombe, Devon, F. H. Lees, (R. A. French, *Entomologist*, 92: 176).

One at m.v.l., 13th June 1964, Mitcheldever, Hants, C. H. Dixon, (Dixon, *Ent. Record.*, 76: 243).

One, 31st January 1966, Horrabridge, Devon, R. J. Revell, (H. A. Kennard, *Trans. Devon Assc.*, 98:56).

One, 30th January 1967, Torquay, Devon, H. E. Marshall, (R. A. French, *Entomologist*, 104:217).

One at m.v.l., 3rd February 1967, Martyrworthy, Hants, D. W. ffennell, (ffennell, *Ent. Gaz.* 18: 56).

One female at m.v.l., 23rd January 1969,⁴ Burlesdon, Hants, I. A. Watkinson, (B. G. Goater, *Butts & Moths of Hampshire* (1974), 175).

One at m.v.l., 14th October 1978, Usk, Monmouthshire, G. A. N. Horton, (Horton, *Ent. Rec.*, 91: 26).

One male at m.v.l., 22nd November 1981, Wye, Kent, (B. Skinner).

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³Recorded in error as the 12th February in *Trans. Devon Assc.* 90: 202.

⁴Recorded in error as 1970 in *Proc. Brit. Ent. & Nat. Hist. Soc.* 4: 11.